Atty Docket No.: JCLA5184   Serial No.: 09/417,497

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action mailed June 20, 2002, rejected presently-pending claims 1-16. Specifically, the Office Action objected claims 2-5 and 10-13 to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.   Claims 1, 6-9, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lo. U.S. Patent No. 6,256,662.   The Applicants traverse the rejection set forth by the Office Action and provide the following arguments.   The Applicants also made amendments to the specification and claim 1 and 9 to clarify the meaning due to a translation error.   No new matter has been introduced as a result.   After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-16 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Summary of Applicant's Invention

The method of the invention includes the following procedural steps: (1) reading a set of default image processing settings into the user interface; (2) activating the scanner to perform a primitive scan operation on the original document based on the default image processing settings to thereby obtain a primitive scanned image which is then transferred to the scanner driver; (3) activating the scanner driver to perform a set of image processing routines on the primitive scanned image to thereby obtain the image qualities of the original document; and based on the image qualities of the original document, specifying a set of suited image processing settings for optimal scan of the original document; and (4) activating the scanner to perform a final scan operation on the original document based on the suited image processing settings to thereby

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obtain a final scanned image which is transferred to the application program for use by the application program. The application program can be either an image editing program or a word processor that can accept the final scanned image as an image file.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by Lo

The Office Action rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lo.

A preliminary discussion on the difference on the structure between Lo and the claimed present invention is appropriate.   In this regard, the present invention claims a method and user interface for providing an average computer user a very user-friendly and almost "one-press and scan" method for scanning a document.   Untrained scanner user usually find the adjustable parameters of a scanner too complicated to understand and operate because all they want to accomplish is to get a good quality scanned image without the need to adjust many parameters. As a result, the present invention provides such a solution by first performing a pre-scan operation to determine the required parameters.   In contrast, Lo is directed to a network scanning system for providing a solution to the problem of needing the scanner directly connected to the host computer for operation.   Lo teaches a scanning system that is connected to a server computer which allows any user who is connected to the network to utilize any available scanner and operate the scanner in the manner as if it is actually directly connected to the host computer.   FIG. 10 of Lo clearly shows the complexity of the network scanning system supporting all kinds of adjustable parameters which will confuse an average computer user, the description of FIG. 10 is supported in Col. 15 Line 46-52.   In Lo specification Col. 15 Lines

58-59 writes "step 474 examines if the user changed any of the scanner parameters" which shows that the scanning operation as taught is not fully automatic and yet the user needs to manually change the settings.

In regard to the Office Action, the Office Action is mistaken for the citation in Col. 12 Line 31-40 for storing a set of default image settings. That citation from Lo specification explains that the permissible parameters setting are being transmitted to the client computer for selection of these parameters and not the opposite as the Office Action cited. Lo does not teach the storing of any scanning parameters used for determining optimal scanning method and quality. The Office Action is also mistaken for the step of performing a primitive scan as cited in Col. 16 Line 12-40. That citation from Lo specification explains that the user can easily control the scan-to-application operation by either proceeding or canceling at any time. Alternatively, the process execution is minimized by running the operation in the background to free up available resources. Lo does not disclose any information in "performing a primitive scan operation on the original document based on the default image processing setting to thereby obtain a primitive scanned image which is then transferred to the scanner driver" as quoted from the Office Action. Furthermore the step of "performing a set of image processing routines..." and "specifying a set of unique image processing settings for optimal scan..." are not taught in Col. 5 Line 48-57 and Col. 16 Line 455-62 respectively of Lo specification. Withdrawal of rejections is requested based on the following arguments on improper basis for rejections in the Office Action. As a result, Lo cannot anticipate the present invention and render claims 1, 6-9, and 14-16 unpatentable.

Thus, by admission within Lo itself, the device of network scanning system is separate and

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distinct from the present invention.   Lo teaches the sharing of scanners and their operation

within a network but in contrast the present invention teaches an improved user-friendliness

method and interface for operating a scanner.   Furthermore the present invention solves a

completely different problem and , see *In re Van Der Bolt*, Civ. App. No. 92-1517, Slip Op.

At4-5 (Fed. Cir. Aug. 10, 1993).

<u>Claim 1 states:</u>

"1. A method implemented on a user interface incorporated in a computer
system coupled with a scanner for performing an automatic scan operation on
an original document, the computer system running a scanner driver and an
application program; the method comprising the steps of:

reading a set of default image processing settings into the user
interface;

activating the scanner to perform a primitive scan operation on the
original document based on the default image processing settings to thereby
obtain a primitive scanned image which is then transferred to the scanner
driver;

**activating the scanner driver to perform a set of image processing
routines on the primitive scanned image** to thereby obtain the image
qualities of the original document; and based on the image qualities of the
original document, specifying a set of suited image processing settings for
optimal scan of the original document;   and

**activating the scanner to perform a final scan operation on the original
document based on the suited image processing settings** to thereby obtain a
final scanned image which is transferred to the application program for use by
the application program."

Lo fails to teach the emphasized feature above.   Specifically, Lo fails to teach the steps of

reading a set of default image processing, activating a scanner to perform a primitive scan,

activating the scanner to perform a set of image processing routines, and activating the scanner

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to perform a final scan based on the suited image processing settings. The present invention provides a solution to a complicated scanner operation with a user-friendly method and interface.

In summary, the present invention for a method and user interface for performing an automatic scan operation that is not anticipated by Lo.
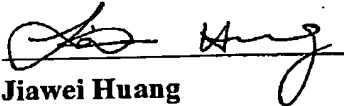
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all pending claims 1-16 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW WHERE CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 3 has been amended as follows:

The method of the invention includes the following procedural steps: (1) reading [storing] a set of default image processing settings into [in] the user interface; (2) activating the scanner to perform a primitive scan operation on the original document based on the default image processing settings to thereby obtain a primitive scanned image which is then transferred to the scanner driver; (3) activating the scanner driver to perform a set of image processing routines on the primitive scanned image to thereby obtain the image qualities of the original document; and based on the image qualities of the original document, specifying a set of suited image processing settings for optimal scan of the original document; and (4) activating the scanner to perform a final scan operation on the original document based on the suited image processing settings to thereby obtain a final scanned image which is transferred to the application program for use by the application program. The application program can be either an image editing program or a word processor that can accept the final scanned image as an image file.

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In The Claims:

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A method implemented on a user interface incorporated in a computer system coupled with a scanner for performing an automatic scan operation on an original document, the computer system running a scanner driver and an application program; the method comprising the steps of:

reading [storing] a set of default image processing settings into [in] the user interface;

activating the scanner to perform a primitive scan operation on the original document based on the default image processing settings to thereby obtain a primitive scanned image which is then transferred to the scanner driver;

activating the scanner driver to perform a set of image processing routines on the primitive scanned image to thereby obtain the image qualities of the original document; and based on the image qualities of the original document, specifying a set of suited image processing settings for optimal scan of the original document; and

activating the scanner to perform a final scan operation on the original document based on the suited image processing settings to thereby obtain a final scanned image which is transferred to the application program for use by the application program.

9. (Once Amended) A user interface for use on a computer system coupled with a scanner for performing an automatic scan operation on an original document, the computer system running a scanner driver and an application program;

the user interface comprising:

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means for <u>reading</u> [storing] a set of default image processing settings;

means for activating the scanner to perform a primitive scan operation on the original document based on the default image processing settings to thereby obtain a primitive scanned image which is then transferred to the scanner driver;

means for activating the scanner driver to perform a set of image processing routines on the primitive scanned image to thereby obtain the image qualities of the original document; and based on the image qualities of the original document, obtaining a set of suited image processing settings for optimal scan of the original document;   and

means for activating the scanner to perform a final scan operation on the original document based on the suited image processing settings to thereby obtain a final scanned image which is transferred to the application program for use by the application program.